

ENDANGERED SPECIES ON FEDERAL LANDS

PANEL: PART I, INTRODUCTION

John L. Spinks¹

Since I've already spoken once during the symposium, I only have two brief points to make for my part of the panel presentation.

One is in terms of public land. The Fish and Wildlife Service has about 35 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The management of those resources are subject to the same Section 7 scrutiny as any other federal agency action. As a matter of fact, by policy from the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, it is our responsibility to make certain that we live up to the highest expectations in compliance with Section 7. If there is a finding of either adverse modification of critical habitat or a jeopardy finding, that activity will not be done by the Fish and Wildlife Service—and that is in writing from the director.

The second point I would make is that, though the Fish and Wildlife Service has a

lead agency role, as does the National Marine Fisheries Service, in administering the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended, I hope all of you here can immediately grasp that the job of protecting endangered and threatened species and recovering these species is completely beyond the scope of any one agency. Were it not for the real dedication and assistance that the service gets from folks like these up here and their agencies, not to mention all the 50 state agencies and the very concerned and dedicated private individuals, we would never get to first base. As a matter of fact, on behalf of the service, I think all we can say is we appreciate the assistance we've gotten over the years—it has been continuous and is still forthcoming—and the interest that generates a symposium like this. We certainly appreciate the attendance of all those here.

PANEL: PART II, FOREST SERVICE PHILOSOPHY OF ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Jerry P. McIlwain²

We have heard some excellent talks on endangered species philosophy here at this session, treating strategies, genetics, ecology, and some new techniques and concepts that are very interesting to me. Within the limitations that are placed on a federal agency, the Forest Service has been dealing with many of these philosophies and strategies for a long time. We have been trying to get them down to the ground level and convert these things that we have all been talking about for the last day and a half into on-the-ground man-

agement, and that is basically what I am going to talk to you about today.

I will talk about the Forest Service philosophy of endangered species management and how this policy is being translated into policies and procedures to get the job done, about the overall program to accomplish our endangered species job, land management on the national forest system, and how the research and state and private forestry arms of the Forest Service are affected by the Endangered Species Act.

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